

ABSTRACT

WA-VI-027

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 126(130)

1767 (reset 1902)

Hancock, Maryland vicinity

Public/private

Milestone No. 126(130) marks Mason and Dixon's 126th horizontal mile west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line, famous for its historical impact and innovative survey methods. It is an original milestone of 1767, quarried and carved in England of oolitic limestone; is in excellent condition, unaltered; <sup>stands about 11 inches above ground,</sup> firmly set at its original site where it was reset in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. On the national and state levels, it is significant primarily as one of 135 original monuments in the thematic group series of some 248 markers still defining the West Line. Locally, as one of 48 original monuments marking the present Washington/Franklin-Fulton county boundary, it is also significant as one of a diminishing number of objects and structures with a visually identifiable relationship to the colonial and Civil War heritage of these counties.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Survey No. WA-VI-027

Magi No.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME** BOUNDARY MARKERS ALONG THE MASON-DIXON LINE (THEMATIC GROUP)

HISTORIC (Mason and Dixon's) WEST LINE, 126th Mile Stone

AND/OR COMMON

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 126 (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 130)

**2 LOCATION** (not for publication)

STREET & NUMBER off east side of Pennsylvania Avenue/PA 655

CITY, TOWN

Hancock

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

MD: 6 / PA: 9

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

MD: Washington / PA: Fulton

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

☐ DISTRICT  
☐ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☒ OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

☒ PUBLIC  
☐ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED  
☒ not applicable

**STATUS** N/A

☐ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

☒ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

**PRESENT USE**

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☒ OTHER: state boundary marker

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY** (monument only; see Thematic Group NR nomination form)

NAME State of Maryland/Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION** (see Thematic Group NR nomination form and surrounding property ownership list)

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS** (also see Thematic Group NR nomination form)

TITLE Washington County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE WA-VI-027 entered 2/24/81

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Milestone No. 126(130) marks Mason and Dixon's 126th horizontal mile west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line. It is an original milestone of 1767, in excellent condition, unaltered, stands about 11 inches above ground at its original site, preliminarily surveyed in 1766, monumented the following year, and reset more securely in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary.

The area here is <sup>the north end of</sup> a ridge, unnamed on the quadrangle, densely wooded with <sup>a mixture of</sup> deciduous and evergreen trees, no housing. The site is within Election District 5 of Washington County, MD, and Thompson Township of Fulton County, PA; about 1¼ miles north-northeast of the center of the town of Hancock, MD; about a half-mile <sup>a scattering of houses called</sup> southeast of Dogtown, PA; about midway between Tonoloway Creek on the east and Cove Ridge on the west; at a point about 2850 feet east of Pennsylvania Avenue/PA 655 at the Line, <sup>on the east slope of the ridge</sup> about 20 feet south of the old Columbia Gas pipeline and about 3 feet north of an old east-west wire fence, in the woods. It <sup>is in a protected obscure spot</sup> cannot be seen from any road and not easily from the pipeline.

The milestone, as with all original Mason and Dixon West Line monuments, is an ~~original~~ oolitic limestone post with a low pyramidal top, quarried and carved in England, and said to have originally measured about 12 inches square by about 4 feet or more in length, cut to stand about 3 feet high with the base left rough-cut for setting into the ground. The distinguishing embellishments are the vertical fluting with horizontally-fluted margins on all four sides, and the Roman capital letters P on the north side facing Pennsylvania and M on the south side facing Maryland, each V-sunk in the center of a plain shallow circle panel near the top. Reset in 1902, <sup>remains firmly in place</sup> this milestone now stands only about 11 inches above ground, and measures close to 11½ inches square. The letters, circle panels, most fluting and margins, top planes with their fluting: most remain clear and essentially intact; although there are chips along all edges and the top corners.

(see Thematic Group National Register nomination form for full descriptions of the original Mason and Dixon monuments and the 1900-03 Resurvey method of resetting them)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			boundary surveying	

SPECIFIC DATES 1767 (reset 1902) ~~BUILDER/ARCHITECT~~ Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon  
SURVEYORS

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Milestone No. 126(130) is significant on the national and state levels primarily as one of 135 original Mason and Dixon monuments in the thematic group series of some 248 markers still defining their 230.228-mile West Line, the boundary later known as the Mason-Dixon Line, famous for its historical impact and innovative survey methods. The site was preliminarily surveyed in 1766, milestone <sup>set</sup> the following year, and reset <sup>in its original site</sup> more securely in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. Locally, as one of 48 original monuments marking the present Washington/Franklin-Fulton county boundary (10 crownstones; 38 milestones), No. 126(130) is also significant as an excellent example of one of a diminishing number of objects and structures with a visually identifiable relationship to the colonial and Civil War heritage of these counties.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (see Thematic Group National Register nomination form)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

(see Thematic Group National Register nomination form)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

Quadrangle name: Hancock (West Virginia-Maryland-Pennsylvania), USGS 7.5 minute series (topographic), 1951 photorev. 1971, scale 1:24000

UTM reference: zone 17, easting 74330, northing 440058

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION N/A

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE Maryland COUNTY WashingtonSTATE Pennsylvania COUNTY Fulton**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Alice Martin (volunteer, Mason and Dixon's West Line boundary marker surveyor)

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust and Maryland Geological Survey

DATE

3/29/81 (site surveyed)

STREET &amp; NUMBER

14308 Mount Avenue

TELEPHONE

(301) 472-2128

CITY OR TOWN

Phoenix

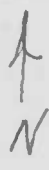
STATE

Maryland 21131

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



MASON EDKON'S WEST LINE, MILESTONE NO. 126(130) WVA-TI-027

HANCOCK QUAD

WEST VIRGINIA-MARYLAND

USGS 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (T

(1957 PHOTO REV. 1971) NW 1/4 HANCOCK 15' QUAD

PLUM RUN 1.8 MI

SCALE: 1"=2000'

2 380 000 FEET (W.VA.)

(SW  
MORE)

522

70

WARRENDSBURG 0.2 MI.

NEEOMORE 7.2 MI.

10'

743





WA-VI-027

MASON & DIXON'S WEST LINE: MILESTONE 126 (130)  
NE CORNER (-/1), ORIGINAL (1767)

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN 3/29/81 (1981.12.26)





MST

WA-VI-023

MASON & DIXON'S WEST LINE MILESTONE 126 (130)  
SW CORNER (- 1M). ORIGINAL (1767)

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN 3/29/81 (P&H 12.21)